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January 23, 1998

Dr. Martha A. Krebs, Director
Office of Energy Research
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Dr. Krebs:

The FESAC members were delighted to have the opportunity to meet with you and hear about the Office of Energy Research programs. The discussions about the fusion program with you and Dr. Davies were particularly helpful to our later deliberations on the final version of the Grunder Panel report. We enclose this report, noting that it has changed very little from the version we reviewed in October. The FESAC reaffirms its letter to you of last October 23 concerning the report. At this meeting the FESAC heard from DOE that encouraging progress is being made in explorations with our ITER partners about the inclusion, during the transition period, of an examination of lower cost design concepts to achieve reduced sets of the ITER detailed technical objectives. FESAC notes that one of the Grunder Panel's four recommendations called for studies of such lower cost design concepts, and we urge DOE to support this effort, preferably with international partners. In this context, FESAC endorses the planned U.S.-community involvement in the activities and workshops to begin developing reduced-cost options.

The FESAC takes this opportunity again to compliment Dr. Hermann Grunder and his Panel for producing such a thoughtful and searching report on a complex subject.

Sincerely,

John Sheffield, Chair
on behalf of the Fusion Energy
Sciences Advisory Committee

cc: N. A. Davies, DOE-OFES
FESAC
H. Grunder, TJNAF